

What you may
not notice in
the Olympics **6**

Taste the
Mediterranean
at Ema **12**

r
ed
eye

Thursday
AUGUST 4, 2016

★ **FREE** ★

A Chicago Tribune
publication

SUPER BAD

MEET THE FLAWED CREW WHO
GET TO BE HEROES IN THE MESSY
'SUICIDE SQUAD' PAGES 8-9



BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECICAGO.COM



EAT

NATIONAL CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE DAY
Union Station 225 S. Canal St. 404-879-9136
 DoubleTree by Hilton and Amtrak employees celebrate by doling out pairs of chocolate chip and walnut cookies so you have one to eat and one to share. The first 25 people who mention "Nice Travels," the hotel's random acts of kindness program, receive a free tin full of cookies. 4-7 p.m.



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE FILE

15TH ANNIVERSARY
Piece Brewery and Pizzeria
 1927 W. North Ave. 773-772-4422

The Wicker Park spot taps a new Quinceanera Mexican-style lager (\$5) and re-releases its Marketing Ploy double pale ale (\$6) created through a collaboration with 3 Floyds Brewing Co. The Waco Brothers perform around 9 p.m. 8 p.m. No cover.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY
Crown Liquors
 2821 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-252-9741

Vamos! and Lil Tits perform at the Logan Square bar, which offers celebratory drink specials including \$5 Old Forester old fashioned, \$3 Jack Daniels shots and \$1 hot dice shots, where the booze is determined by rolling dice. 8 p.m. No cover.

DO

MODERN BEAUTY GIRLS NIGHT OUT

Revel Fulton Market
 1215 W. Fulton Market
 312-461-9400

Try new beauty products and mini-services from salons and spas, shop accessories and clothing from Chicago designers, and enjoy cocktails, cider, beer, wine and appetizers at this bash hosted by **StyleChicago.com**. 6-9 p.m. \$35-\$45. Tickets: **brownpapertickets.com**

'NOT FROM HERE'
Under The Gun Theater
 956 W. Newport Ave.
 773-270-3440

The two-person improv and sketch team presents a weekly variety show through Aug. 25 featuring crazy characters, comedic songs, Trump impressions and stand-up. 9 p.m. \$12. Tickets: **underthegun.theater**

3-DAY FORECAST



THURSDAY
89 74
 Oh so hot



FRIDAY
83 74
 Not ideal



SATURDAY
80 70
 Go outside!

HAPPY HOUR OF THE DAY

Belly Up Smokehouse & Saloon (1132 S. Wabash Ave. 312-929-3856) offers \$4 drafts, \$5 glasses of select house wine and \$6 well cocktails from 4-6 p.m.



Miller Lite

Miller Lite Beer Garden

OPEN DAILY
Now through Labor Day

FREE LIVE MUSIC
Wednesday - Sunday

navypier.com   



See it in a new light.





Delegates hold up signs during the DNC



Delegates hold up signs during the RNC

CHOOSING SIDES

MANY TRUMP, CLINTON VOTERS DON'T HAVE FRIENDS WHO SUPPORT OTHER CANDIDATE

By Aaron Blake | WASHINGTON POST

According to a new poll from the Pew Research Center, just 25 percent of Donald Trump backers say "some" or "a lot" of their close friends support Hillary Clinton. Clinton supporters are even less likely to have Trump-supporting friends; just 19 percent say they have at least "some."

In addition, 31 percent of Trump backers say they have no close friends who back Clinton. And nearly half—47 percent—of Clinton backers say they have zero close friends who support Trump.

Pew has been at the forefront of detailing Americans' continued polarization and self-sorting—i.e. tending to move to and/or live in places with people who agree with them politically.

This is helping Republicans when it comes to controlling Congress, because Democrats are even more concentrated in overwhelmingly Democratic places—especially in urban

areas—while Republican voters are more dispersed and give the GOP an edge in most districts and states nationwide. To perhaps oversimplify it: Fewer Republican votes are going to waste in urban districts than Democratic votes going to waste in rural areas.

Pew data in 2014 suggested that about half of the most conservative Americans said it was important to them to live where people shared their political views, while 63 percent said most of their close friends were politically similar.

Among the most liberal Americans, 35 percent said they wanted to live alongside people

with similar views, and 49 percent said most of their close friends shared their views.

The new data from Pew, though, suggests an even more siloed 2016 election, in which Trump voters rarely talk to Clinton voters and vice versa. And even when they do speak to one another, it's perhaps often someone they're not close to and are less likely to empathize with.

And that's especially true with 18- to 29-year-old Clinton voters—58 percent of whom say they have no close friends who support Trump—black Clinton voters (72 percent) and Hispanic Clinton voters (53 percent).

The 2016 election promises to be perhaps the most polarizing we've seen. In fact, the only thing many voters seem to agree on is that they like neither Trump nor Clinton—25 percent, according to recent Gallup polling.

But among the vast majority of Americans who have nonetheless chosen sides, they aren't very likely to have many friends looking to convert them. And that's especially true of Clinton voters.

How many of your close friends support...

In a 2016 poll, percent of registered voters who said ____ of their close friends back...

■ A LOT ■ SOME ■ JUST A FEW ■ NONE

Among Trump supporters



Among Clinton supporters



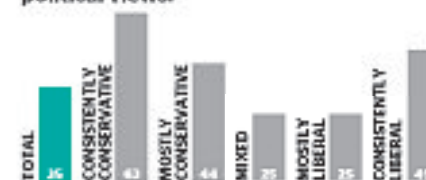
Ideological 'silos'

In a 2014 poll, percent who said...

It's important to me to live somewhere most people share my political views.



Most of my close friends share my political views.



PEW RESEARCH CENTER

CONTACT US
Newsroom: 312-222-4970
 redev@redyechicago.com



We didn't just up the volume,
we turned your phone into a JBL speaker.



Introducing
moto z
DROID
with **motomods**

Only on
verizon✓

motomods.com

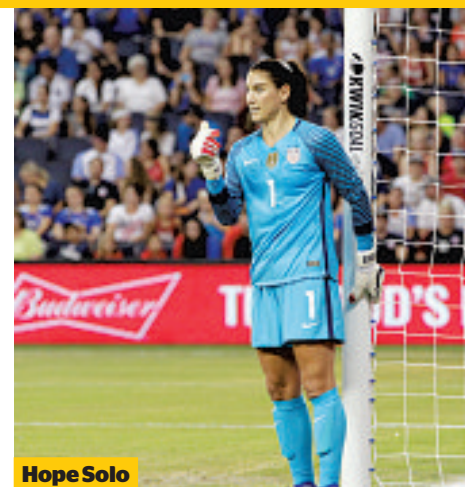
JBL



Julie Johnston



Jill Ellis



Hope Solo



Ibtihaj Muhammad



Gabby Douglas

GETTY IMAGES FILE; AP PHOTOS

LOOK CLOSER

JUST BECAUSE ATHLETES MAKE IT LOOK EASY DOESN'T MEAN THEY ELUDE STRUGGLE

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

Many events that will take center stage in Rio de Janeiro this month are on our sports radar only once every four years. Even some of the more ubiquitous events can be tough to get a read on. For that reason, there's much of the Olympic equation that goes unseen by fans. Good thing there are athletes and coaches who can shed light on these overlooked elements.

What might the casual viewer not see or realize when watching your sport?

GABBY DOUGLAS, GYMNASTICS

"I think people don't see the hard work, the hours, the effort that we put into the gym. They see the beautiful leotards and the makeup and the beautiful performances out on the floor. They don't see the behind-the-scenes, when we're struggling in training or sliding down the beam or crying. They don't see that."

JILL ELLIS, SOCCER COACH

"There's a little bit more, probably unknowns traveling down to Brazil. There are certain things that aren't in place yet that we've been told, this is going to happen, and you have to trust that those things will happen. It's an attitude of having to deal with curveballs; I think you have to have that. You have to be prepared to roll with what comes your way and not get too emotional about it."

JULIE JOHNSTON, SOCCER

"Travel is always something [that can be overlooked]. We're not one of the teams that is just

staying in Rio like a lot of other sports do."

IBTIHAJ MUHAMMAD, FENCING

"There's some great strides that have been made in our sport internationally that will help to make it more spectator-friendly, whether it be slow-motion replays or lighting the strips or our masks or different things that can help you identify who scored the point. I think that it will be exciting for people to watch, and I think we have the strongest American contingency that we've ever had. ... We're all in a position where anyone can bring home a medal on any given day."

ALYSSA NAEHER, SOCCER

"Managing the rest days and getting timing of that kind of preparation, getting your bodies back."

HOPE SOLO, SOCCER

"Set pieces [such as free kicks, corner kicks

and throw-ins] are really hugely important to our team; it helped us win the World Cup last summer. I think everyone kind of knows that, though. We're [also] traveling with certain pillows, making sure we're getting proper rest."

MAGGIE STEFFENS, WATER POLO

"I've played a lot of sports and I've talked to a lot of different people and I've seen people in other sports try water polo, and I truly believe it's the hardest sport to play. The reason I say that is because swimming in itself requires you to use every single muscle in your body the entire time. So imagine a swimming workout while somebody is pushing you around, maybe trying to drown you a little bit while you're holding a ball, while you're fending somebody off, while you're trying to leg up over the water, and on top of that, you are playing one of the hardest mental games."

"Because not only do you need to be mentally tough to withstand all [the] physical



Maggie Steffens



Alyssa Naehrer

attributes of the game, but it's like a chess game. You're trying to figure out each little piece. Where am I passing next? What's the next move? And so because of all that, the physicality that makes it so tough kind of just adds to the fun of it.

"I always say there's three games being played during water polo. There's the under-water game that no one sees that really plays a huge role in how people are getting open or what's happening ... It kind of allows you to be sneaky and fun because you get to be physical but in a smart way. Then there's the over-the-water game, which is what the audience sees, the quick ball movement, the over-water physicality, the excitement of it. Then there's the mental game. It's like basketball where you're finding passing lanes, going up and down the pool and having to read out every situation. It's tough. You're trying to do that while someone's trying to drown you."

FREELANCER PAUL M. BANKS CONTRIBUTED TO THIS REPORT.

@REDEYESPORTSCHI | CHSOSA@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

RIO ROUNDUP



THE QUOTE

"ONLY IN A SMALL PART."

—An Uber driver in Rio de Janeiro, when asked by Tribune reporter Chris Hine whether the road known as the Linha Amarela (Yellow Line) is dangerous. Hine wrote that the highway, which weaves through several notorious favelas, was lined with military vehicles and officers.

Stay in the Olympic Village? Please.

The U.S. basketball team has decided an actual boat is what floats their boat while preparing for the Rio Games. According to the Washington Post, Jimmy Butler, Elena Delle Donne and their teammates are staying on a cruise ship docked in Guanabara Bay as opposed to the athletes village. The boat features a spa, multiple dining areas, a bar, a cigar lounge and an open-air pool.

THE DIGITS

\$206

That's the average nightly cost for Airbnb accommodations in Rio right now, making it the world's most expensive city in that regard, according to Bloomberg. Meanwhile, at \$242 a night, Rio also is the seventh-most expensive place to stay in a hotel. Well, at least the tickets to the Olympic events themselves are relatively inexpensive.

5

That's how many new sports the International Olympic committee approved for the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo: baseball-softball, skateboarding, surfing, karate and climbing. Which is really six if you're splitting hairs, but no big deal.

GO TEAM USA!

SUMMER'S BIGGEST GAMES



BROADCAST LIVE IN THE NEWCITY PLAZA

STARTS AUGUST 5TH | NIGHTLY 7-11P.M.

HALSTED ST. & CLYBOURN AVE.

NEWCITY
LIFESTYLE & ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT
LINCOLN PARK

EXPERIENCENEWCITY.COM/
SUMMERSGAMES

YOUR TOWN
YOUR VIEW
YOUR DEAL

50% OFF
OBSERVATION DECK
GENERAL ADMISSION
FOR ALL 606 RESIDENTS*



875 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE | 365 DAYS A YEAR | OPEN 9AM TO 11PM | 360CHICAGO.COM

*Must present Government issued ID. Valid for 1 adult with up to 3 children. Expires 12/31/16

**Present this coupon + QR code to TILT for free on your next visit. Expires 12/31/16

movies

THE SQUAD



◀ Harley Quinn
Margot Robbie
Once a trained psychiatrist and gymnast, Harley fell in love with the Joker when he was her patient. Now she's crazier and more reckless than he is.
LIVE ACTION
"Birds of Prey" series 2002, *Mia Sara*
Short appearance on "Arrow" 2014, *Cassidy Alexa*



◀ Deadshot
Will Smith
The deadliest assassin in the world never misses a shot and will kill anyone if the price is right. But his weakness is his smart, young daughter, who wants to believe her dad is a good guy.
ANIMATION
"Justice League" 2001, *Michael Rosenbaum* (who played Lex Luthor in "Smallville")
LIVE ACTION
"Smallville" 2010, *Bradley Stryker*
"Arrow" 2012 and "The Flash" 2016 *Michael Rowe*



◀ El Diablo
Jay Hernandez
Born with the power to conjure fire, Diablo killed his loved ones when he lost control. Now he'd prefer to die as a man instead of a weapon.
ANIMATION
"Justice League Unlimited" 2005, *Nestor Carbonell* (who played the mayor in "The Dark Knight" and "The Dark Knight Rises")



◀ Boomerang
Jai Courtney
An Aussie thief who isn't above hitting a woman or opening a beer during a fight sequence. His weapon of choice is—you guessed it—a boomerang.
LIVE ACTION
"Arrow" 2014, *Nick Tarabay*



◀ Killer Croc
Adewale Akinnuoye-Agbaje
Born a monster and mistreated until he truly became one, Killer Croc is big and ugly but definitely handy to have around if you need someone in the sewers.



◀ Slipknot
Adam Beach
This guy is good at tying knots, but unfortunately, it's as easy for others to manipulate his mind as it is for him to manipulate a rope.

THE BOSS



▲ Amanda Waller
Viola Davis
The ruthless boss of the operation who will do whatever it takes to make her mission a success. She's a U.S. intelligence officer but doesn't think much of doing things by the book.
ANIMATION
"Justice League Unlimited" 2004, *C.C.H. Pounder*
LIVE ACTION
"Smallville" 2010, *Pam Grier*
"Arrow" 2013, *Cynthia Addai-Robinson*
"Green Lantern" 2011, *Angela Bassett*

THE GOOD



▲ Rick Flag
Joel Kinnaman
The military man is in charge of the Suicide Squad and reports to Amanda Waller. He falls hard for Dr. June Moone, making things complicated when she's possessed by the evil Enchantress.



▲ Katana
Karen Fukuhara
Flag's main source of backup, a gifted swordswoman who's still grieving the death of her murdered husband.
LIVE ACTION
"Arrow" 2014, *Rila Fukushima*

SUICIDE SQUAD 101

DRIVE ME CRAZY

Written by Lauren Chval • Illustrations by Aly Morris | REDEYE

Sometimes it feels like the world has superhero fatigue—or is that just us? Every summer is jam-packed with movie after movie that end with the same giant battle, the fate of the world hanging in the balance. We get it.

Which is maybe why we're all so excited for "Suicide Squad," a flick that promises to break the mold. Our heroes are bad guys? What are we rooting for? It's unpredictable, and that's cool. But most of us don't have an idea of what the Suicide Squad is besides just a crew of bad guys. The Joker—the most famous character—isn't even in the squad. If you don't know the basics of these supervillains, we're here to fill you in.

©LCHVAL | LAURENCHVAL@REDEYECHICAGO.COM • @ALYSON_MORRIS | ALYMORRIS@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

THE VILLAINS



▲ Enchantress
Cara Delevingne
An ancient spirit hell-bent on taking over the world. Controlling her heart is the key to controlling her power, but what if Rick Flag loses control?



▲ Joker
Jared Leto
Everyone's favorite psychotic anarchist is back. He's the dark king of Gotham, causing chaos wherever he goes and desperate to be united with his queen, Harley Quinn.
ANIMATION
Lots, but most notably: "Batman: The Animated Series" 1992, *Mark Hamill*
LIVE ACTION
"Batman" 1966 series and "Batman" 1966 film *Cesar Romero*
"Batman" 1989, *Jack Nicholson*
"The Dark Knight" 2008, *Heath Ledger*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
SUICIDE SQUAD
PG-13

WHAT'S GOOD?

The soundtrack is really good. Expertly curated, it almost tricks you into thinking this movie is fun. Smith and Robbie try to inject "Suicide Squad" with the attitude it needs to work, but their best efforts can't save such a murky and, frankly, lame script.

WHAT'S BAD?

Where to start? There's no nuance to this movie—every character is introduced in an expositional montage that earns nothing and induces eye-rolling at every turn. "Talk about a workplace romance gone bad," Waller drawls while explaining that Harley Quinn used to be the Joker's (Jared Leto) therapist. Every backstory is forced, every character lacking substance—some are totally unnecessary. For all the hype about how committed Leto was to bringing the Joker to life, his portrayal is all surface crazy and none of the darkness that makes the character truly terrifying. The only scene that kind of works is when the squad discusses their "badness" in a bar, but rather than plumbing those depths further, screenwriter and director David Ayer pulls everyone back into another meaningless battle sequence.

FINAL VERDICT

The fight scenes are generic, the dialogue is cheesy as hell and the plot is a mess. Stay home and buy the soundtrack. —L.C.

Players
Sports & Social Group

THE BIG DIG
NORTH AVENUE BEACH PARTY

SAT. AUG 6TH ALL INCLUSIVE DRINK PACKAGE

BUD LIGHT

Core Physical Therapy, DICK'S, 103.5 KISS FM, Redeye

OFFICIAL AFTER PARTY
Bud Light Hosted Bar 9pm-10pm must show wristband

TROPHY ROOM

TICKETS AT PLAYERSSPORTS.NET
USE CODE 'REDEYE' FOR DISCOUNT!

170 W ONTARIO

Low Back Pain
messing with your game?

Radiant Research is currently conducting a clinical research study on an investigational pain medication. If you suffer from chronic low back pain and are age 35 or older, you may qualify to participate. Qualified participants receive all study-related care and investigational medication at no cost. Reimbursement for travel may be provided.

Call: 773-570-4056

RADIANT
CLINICAL RESEARCH

theater

Liquid Courage: A Drinking Show

set the scene

5 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

By Morgan Olsen | REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits. @MORGANOLSEN | MOOLSEN@REDEYETCHICAGO.COM

THURSDAY
'High Spirits Wine Tasting & Comedy Show'
City Winery
1200 W. Randolph St. 312-733-9463

Comedian and sommelier Patrick Ney delivers approachable, no-frills wine education with a side of comedy. Tickets include one tasting of sparkling wine and three blind tastings of red and white wines. 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. \$45. Tickets: citywinery.com

plus audience members can expect a slew of drinking game rules throughout the performance. Servers from Second City's 1959 Kitchen & Bar will be on hand if you need a refill. 10:30 p.m. \$13. Tickets: secondcity.com

SUNDAY
'The Wizengamot: A Harry Potter Debate'
Under the Gun Theater
956 W. Newport Ave. 773-270-3440

Was Albus Dumbledore a good headmaster? If you could be any Death Eater, who would you be and why? Two Harry Potter experts debate hard-hitting questions like these while a panel of witches and wizards judges the debate with help from the audience. 6 p.m. \$15. Tickets: underthegun.theater

TUESDAY
'Beauty is in the Eye of the Beeholder'
The Annoyance Theatre
851 W. Belmont Ave. 773-697-9693

This post-apocalyptic farce is set in 2076, when life as we know it has been destroyed and the only sustainable crop left is honey. The fate of the country rests in beekeeper Kate Google's hands, and audiences are invited to follow her journey. 8 p.m. \$8. Tickets: theannoyance.com

Chicago Treatment and Counseling Centers
Outpatient Methadone Maintenance

WE CAN HELP!!! NO WAITING LIST

- Our \$100 REFERRAL BONUS ~ Existing clients who refer a new enrollment to the program will be given \$100 credit on their bill
- Former clients can return to the program and have any owed balance waived FOREVER (Terms and conditions apply)

Referred clients MUST mention referring client AT THE TIME OF ENROLLMENT. Returning clients who are having an owed balance waived must pay \$65 upon intake. All clients must sign a payment contract requiring payment of their balance in full every Monday. **WE ALSO PROVIDE DUI AND SUBOXONE SERVICES** Please email info@chicagotreatment.com www.chicagotreatment.com

4 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU:

3520 S. Ashland Ave.
Chicago, IL 60609

We have recently moved to this location

773.523.3400
(\$50 weekly)

4453 N. Broadway Ave.
Chicago, IL 60640
773.506.2900
(\$45 weekly)

1849 S. Cicero Ave.
Cicero, IL 60804
708.656.9500
(\$50 weekly)

5635 W. Roosevelt Rd.
Cicero, IL 60804
708.652.6500
(\$50 weekly)

NORTH Ave
25th Ave

Al Piemonte

FINAL WEEK

SUMMER BLOWOUT

1000 VEHICLES TO CHOOSE FROM

0% FOR 72 MONTHS*

FOR EXAMPLE:



NEW 2016 Ford Fiesta
WAS: \$16,060
NOW: \$11,009*
STOCK# 15031



NEW 2016 Ford Focus
WAS: \$19,195
NOW: \$12,980*
STOCK# 15345



NEW 2016 Ford Escape
WAS: \$23,995
NOW: \$17,885*
STOCK# 53388



NEW 2017 Ford Fusion
WAS: \$22,995
NOW: \$18,998*
STOCK# 15306



SAVE \$10,500* off MSRP on NEW 2015 Ford F-150 Super Crew 4x4 Lariat
STOCK# 52187

YOUR CHOICE: \$100 DOWN AND ONLY \$159 PER MONTH**



2015 FORD FIESTA



2015 NISSAN VERSA



2015 CHEVY SPARK

AL PIEMONTE FORD'S SPECIAL DEALS FOR THIS GREAT EVENT ***

 1999 FORD ESCORT BLUE-LOW MILES-AUTO 15141A, \$1,577	 2003 MAZDA TRIBUTE BLACK-4x4-LEATHER-ROOF 52407A, \$4,977	 2012 CHRYSLER 200 LX GRAY-4 CYLINDER 15345A, \$9,977
 2002 HONDA CRV TAN-4x4-ROOF P19701A, \$2,477	 2003 SATURN VUE BLUE-AWD-6 CYLINDER 5313B, \$4,977	 2009 FORD ESCAPE BLUE-AUTO-4 CYLINDER-FWD P19788A, \$9,977
 2009 PONTIAC G6 RED-POWER-4 DOOR 53272A, \$2,977	 1990 CHEVY CORVETTE CONVERTIBLE RED-AUTO-LEATHER P19672A, \$5,977	 2005 CADILLAC ESCALADE RED-EXT CREW CAB-LEATHER-ROOF 53475A, \$10,977
 2010 FORD CROWN VICTORIA BLACK-POLICE PACKAGE-V8 7704A1, \$4,977	 2009 HONDA CIVIC BLUE-4 DOOR-AUTO 53258A, \$5,977	 2013 CHEVY SONIC SUNSET-AUTO-POWER 15341A, \$10,977
 2009 KIA SPORTAGE SILVER-4x4-V6 52161D, \$4,977	 2005 INFINITI G35 SILVER-LEATHER-ROOF-V6 52825A, \$7,977	 2012 FORD TAURUS SE BLACK-LOADED-V6 15304A, \$10,977

PHOTOS FOR DEMONSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY AND MAY NOT REFLECT ACTUAL VEHICLE

CREDIT COACH ON SITE



Ed Dixon
Credit Coach
888-815-6171

CREDIT COACH HERE TO HELP!

- DO YOU NEED A CAR?
- DON'T HAVE THE CASH?
- CAN'T GET THE LOAN?

Call Ed Dixon the credit coach at Al Piemonte Ford.

Coach Ed has helped thousands of people, who could not get a loan, drive away in the car that they wanted. Ed works hard for you. We establish your credit to get you financed when others said you could not.



708-345-9300
www.apford.com

Mówimy Po Polsku
Hablamos en Espanol



25th & North Ave.
in Melrose Park



AL PIEMONTE FORD
IS YOUR COMMERCIAL TRUCK DEALER

WE SELL AND SERVICE ALL COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

CALL JIM OR STU FOR ALL YOUR COMMERCIAL NEEDS.

JIM: 630-631-8872 STU: 630-561-0554

F150-F250-F350-F450-F550-F650-F750

— ANY WAY YOU WANT —

*ALL MANUFACTURER REBATES AND DISCOUNTS APPLIED. NOT ALL CUSTOMERS WILL QUALIFY FOR ALL REBATES. SEE DEALER FOR DETAILS — ALL PLUS TAX, L&T — \$169.27 DOC FEE — \$13.89 PER \$1000.00 FINANCED
**\$100.00 DOWN + TAX+L&T+ \$169.27 DOC FEE — WITH QUALIFIED CREDIT — 75 MONTHS AT 2.5% — SELLING PRICE 10977.00 — 2015 FIESTA XP19696 — 2015 VERSA XP19605 — 2015 SPARK—XP19668
***ALL PRE-OWNED ARE PLUS TAX, L&T, \$169.27 DOC FEE

ea
Watermelon
gazpacho

REVIEW
Ema
74 W. Illinois St.
312-527-5586
★★★★☆
Take it or leave it



Must
love
Mediterranean
CHEF C.J. JACOBSON BRINGS EMA TO LIFE



By Michael Nigrant | FOR REDEYE

From the street, you might gaze longingly into Ema, a new River North spot from chef **C.J. Jacobson** (Intro) and Lettuce Entertain You, and see an oasis. Sheer curtains flutter in the breeze, wicker pendant light fixtures sway and glasses of rosé drip with condensation. White string lights hanging across an indoor trellis cast a gauzy light against green vines.

But look a little closer and you'll notice a sheen of sweat across many diners' brows. Servers huddle in the far back near air conditioning vents. The open front windows at Ema seem like a great idea, but the evening I visited, temperatures hovered near 90 degrees and the AC couldn't keep up. I mopped my forehead and filched glugs of my cocktail, wondering if I'd gotten myself into a hot mess.

Hot khaki nights

If you're fond of khakis and white shirts, you might want to rethink your wardrobe before you visit as there's a good chance you'll disappear into the sand- and linen-colored decor or be mistaken for a similarly clad server. Save for some inlays of worn reclaimed wood, the dining room channels every upscale beach resort you've ever seen with its maple woods, sharp Scandinavian-skewing seats and whitewashed brick walls. Though Ema has only been open for a few weeks, the clientele—a mix of Jackie Onassis-like, sunglasses-wearing old ladies; stylish moms with babies in tow; and youthful happy hour-seeking office dwellers—seem like regulars. The night I visited, Jacobson chatted up a few guests like old friends, and I overheard a server tell the table

behind me that he recognized them from last week.

California dreamin' with a little Israeli imagination

The beachy decor is complemented by Jacobson's California- and Mediterranean-inspired bites and mezze, a.k.a. Mediterranean tapas.

"I like the idea of mezze, small plates that can all work together in some way," Jacobson said. "I've always liked the Mediterranean palate, but I was first introduced to it when I was playing volleyball in Israel. Its simplicity resonated with me."

It resonated with me too. Though I was overheating, a swoosh of jalapeno- and lime-brightened avocado and sweet pea puree (\$8.95) bursting with mint cooled me down. Housemade labneh (\$7.95), or Lebanese yogurt, was topped with salty Marcona almonds, smoky burnt honey and juicy roasted grapes. The house pita bread was so warm and comforting that I

wanted to hold it to my cheek and take a nap.

But, and this is my first service issue, there were only six small slices of the pita for our table of four. We polished them off in seconds and asked for more. The refilled basket didn't arrive for minutes, and we were left waiting to sop up more of the puree and labneh.

Waiter, there's watermelon in my soup!

While we waited, a bowl of watermelon gazpacho (\$7.95) the color of a cherry slushie arrived. The broth—a puree of watermelon, piquillo pepper, radish and house-fermented Fresno chili—was bracing but finished with a lip-tingling fire. Pickled bits of crunchy watermelon rind and tiny mint leaves floating in the broth tamed the spice. I've had

watermelon soup before, but it's usually tasted like a single melon note. Jacobson's version is complex, featuring the savoriness of a bloody mary and the frozen fruity rewards of a treat from Mario's Italian Lemonade.

Eh on the eggplant

Our server pushed the fried eggplant (\$8.95) like a used car salesman encouraging an extended warranty plan. The first few bites were OK, but eventually the plate became an exercise in monotony. Some of the bigger hunks of eggplant were soggy, raw in the middle and tough to chew. The best bits were the thinly sliced ones, especially when dunked in the side of chickpea miso dip. Like a couple of other tables serviced by our waiter, we left half the plate untouched. A lamb and beef kebab (\$13.95) glistened with olive oil and had a fine smoky char. The meat

was juicy but woefully in need of salt.

Top tentacle and luscious lamb

Grilled octopus (\$14.95), which was flanked by fried sheets of kale and rippling crispy-skinned fingerling potatoes dripping with a velvety lemon vinaigrette, was as addictive as a perfect batch of French fries. I shot my dining companion a dirty look when I realized she'd eaten more than her fair share of the tender tentacles and there were none left. Though more of a cold-weather dish, I couldn't resist ordering the braised lamb shoulder (\$24.95) topped with Super Ball-sized cherries and caramel-like dates. A saucer of lettuce vinaigrette—pureed butter lettuce, tarragon, basil, parsley and preserved lemon—lightened the load.

Out for service

As much as I enjoyed Jacobson's food, our meal was interrupted twice by food runners trying to drop off plates meant for other tables. The service staff also tried to remove plates I was still working on several times throughout the meal.

I did appreciate that when I couldn't decide between two wines, our server brought out samples of each for me to try. I settled on the 2014 Domaine Spiropoulos Mantinia Moschofilero (\$11) with notes of honey, grapefruit and mineral flavor. What I didn't appreciate was that our server assumed my friend wanted the same wine and brought out a second unbidden glass.

All hail halva

Dessert from pastry chef Yasmin Gutierrez was a mixed bag. I never thought I'd write this, but it seems halva is having a moment. You may remember that I was gaga over the version served at Honey's a few weeks ago. Gutierrez's take (\$9.95) offers two plays on the dessert: one made with chia seeds and another infused with chocolate and chili that's served with candied pistachios. Both were silkier and superior to what I had at Honey's. Deconstructed baklava (\$6.95) looked like regular baklava that had been smashed with a sledgehammer. Filo shards mixed with pistachio nut stuffing and dried fruit were dry. I yearned for a jar of honey to make the whole thing more edible.

Bottom line

You rarely see Jacobson's name without mention of his appearance on "Top Chef." It's a bit of a disservice because he's way more than a TV chef. He's a top talent with a fine palate. However—and this is surprising as they rarely falter—the Lettuce crew is not proving an equal partner in service at Ema. If they up their game, this restaurant could eventually become a classic.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED, AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE.



RATINGS KEY

- ★★★★ DEAD UPON ARRIVAL
- ★★★★ PROCEED WITH CAUTION
- ★★★★ GIVE IT SOME TIME
- ★★★★ TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT
- ★★★★ OFF TO A GOOD START
- ★★★★ HEATING UP
- ★★★★ ALREADY HOT

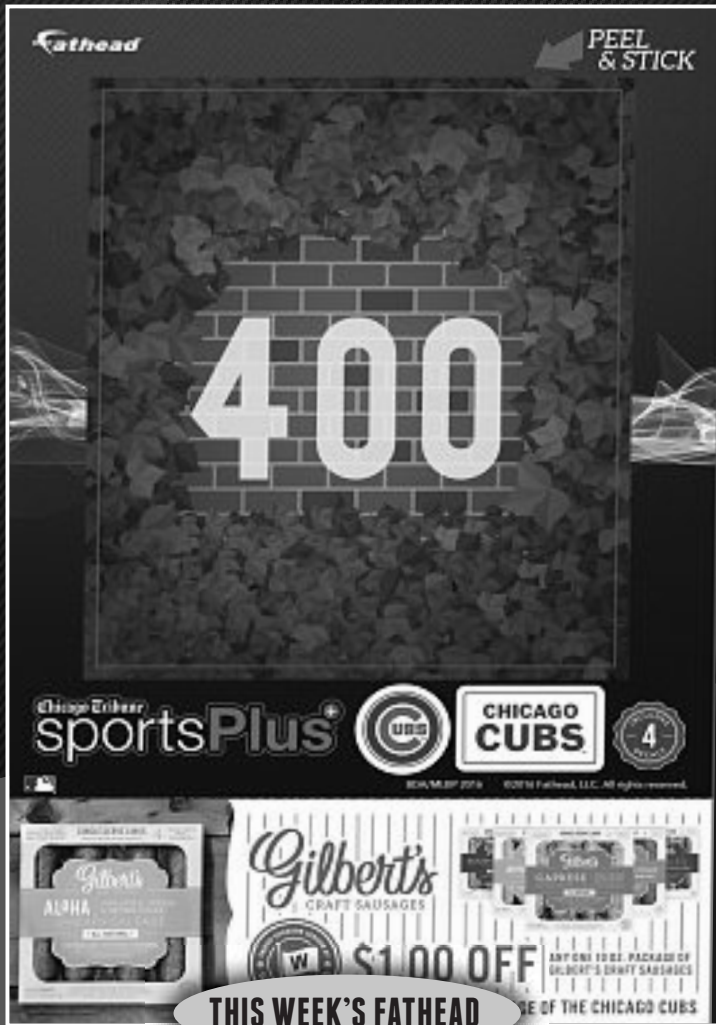
Chicago Tribune
FREE INSIDE
THE SUNDAY CHICAGO TRIBUNE



**EVERY SUNDAY
THROUGH AUGUST 14**
Only at participating Jewel-Osco locations
While supplies last.



2016
Fathead®
STICKERS

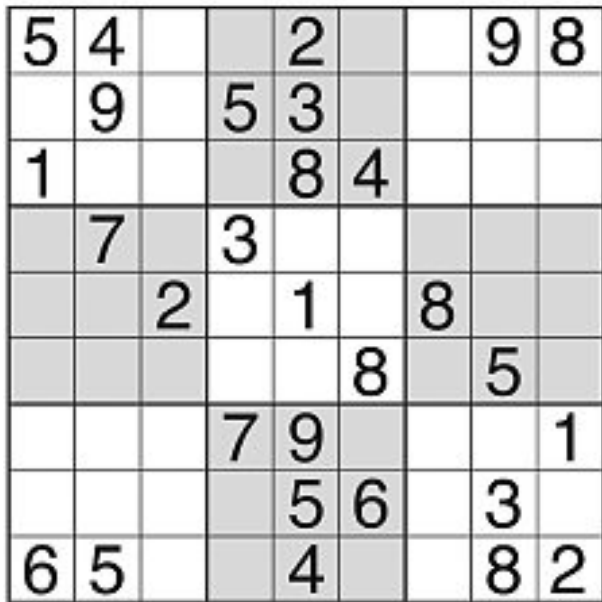


COLLECT ALL SIX!



Get an exclusive offer from
Gilbert's Craft Sausages
on this Sunday's Fathead.





DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆



WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS



TODAY'S CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

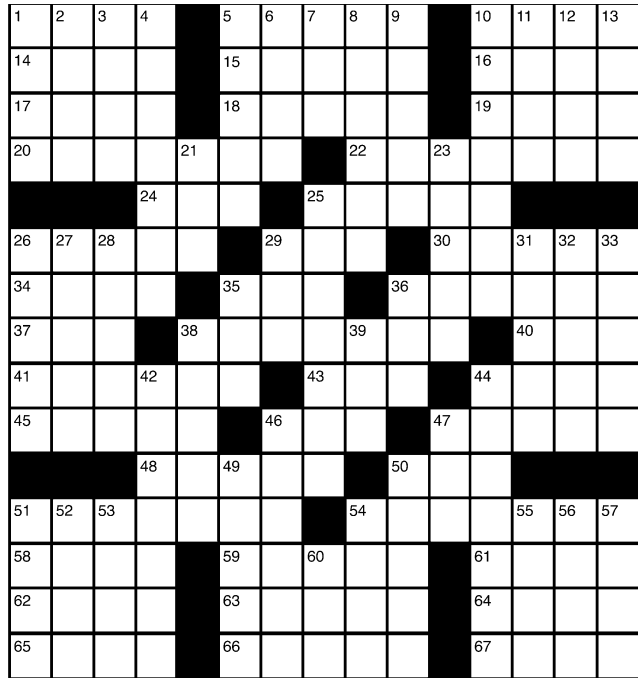
- » Singer **Jessica Sanchez**, 21
- » Actress **Abigail Spencer**, 35
- » Actor **Daniel Dae Kim**, 48
- » Actors **Cole and Dylan Sprouse**, 24
- » Singer **Marques Houston**, 35
- » President **Barack Obama**, 55
- » Actress **Meghan Markle**, 35
- » Actor **Billy Bob Thornton**, 61

ACROSS

- 1 Explorer Marco
- 5 Ringing clock
- 10 Caramel-topped custard
- 14 Finished; done
- 15 Pago Pago, American _
- 16 Similar to
- 17 Give, but expect back
- 18 Nosh
- 19 Leave out
- 20 Went into
- 22 Diane and Michael
- 24 Fore and
- 25 Many Kosovo residents
- 26 Piece of celery
- 29 Flower garden
- 30 Traditional nun's wear
- 34 Attila's men
- 35 Cereal grain
- 36 Game piece with dots on it
- 37 Strange
- 38 Compliment excessively
- 40 Father
- 41 Head, slangily
- 43 Very long time
- 44 Repair
- 45 Bert's buddy
- 46 Pinky or Spike
- 47 Waters down
- 48 Supplies on a florist's shelf
- 50 White lie
- 51 Helps
- 54 Offhand critical remark
- 58 Rosary piece
- 59 Sir _ Newton
- 61 Sticky strip
- 62 Lunch spot
- 63 India's first prime minister
- 64 Arden & Plumb
- 65 Snow toy
- 66 Small files
- 67 Torn forcefully

DOWN

- 1 Word with North or South
- 2 Baker's need
- 3 Gave temporarily
- 4 Difficult experiences
- 5 Valuable thing
- 6 Come to shore
- 7 Org. for doctors



- 8 _ the boat; made waves
- 9 Creator
- 10 Floating wreckage
- 11 Long car
- 12 Related
- 13 Brooklyn team
- 21 Brother of JFK
- 23 Detest
- 25 Sofas
- 26 Glistened
- 27 Henry VIII's house
- 28 Goes on _; continues
- 29 Sheep's cry
- 31 _ one's time; waits patiently
- 32 Ridiculous
- 33 Lincoln's in-laws
- 35 Spanish cheer
- 36 TV room, often
- 38 Tiny insects
- 39 Part of a sock
- 42 Portioned
- 44 Hoodlum
- 46 Decrease
- 47 Smack
- 49 Bee's weapon
- 50 Compact car from Ford
- 51 Fundamentals
- 52 Official stamp
- 53 Out of danger
- 54 Portion
- 55 "... a nice day!"
- 56 Unlock
- 57 Examination
- 60 "Caughtcha!"



TELL US HOW YOU REALLY FEEL

↓

WE'RE LISTENING, CHICAGO.

Share your thoughts in our RedEye reader panel.

You could win a \$100 GIFT CARD.

redoychicago.com/readerpanel

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. PURCHASE WILL NOT INCREASE YOUR CHANCES OF WINNING. Runs from 2011/10 at 12:00 AM PT to 12:00 PM PT. Open only to adults 18+ as of entry date who are legal residents of the Chicago DMA. Void where prohibited & outside immediate area. Excludes sponsor employees & their households. To enter, complete survey online at redoychicago.com/readerpanel through ads found on Tribune Publishing channels (i.e. email, print, digital, or social media). Limit 1 entry per person/household. 3 Prizes: \$100 Amazon.com Gift Card. Odds of winning depend on # of elig. entries. Other rules apply. For full rules, visit redoychicago.com/readerpanel or contact Tribune Publishing at 435 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60611.

MARQUETTE PARK

THIS SATURDAY
AUGUST 6
10 AM - 8 PM

TAKIN' IT TO THE
Streets

Urban International Festival

RAKIM
VIC MENSA | YUNA
DANAY SUAREZ | BROTHER ALI
MS. ILYASAH AL SHABAZZ

\$5
SUGGESTED DONATION

The Journey to Justice Continues

IMANSTREETS.ORG

WE ARE HERE TO HELP! NOT JUDGE!

HEROIN AND PAIN PILL ADDICTION

LOW COST & CONFIDENTIAL

\$20.00 TRANSPORTATION
CREDIT FOR JOINING

with mention of this ad.

- Same Day Dosing
- Compassionate Staff
- All Public Transportation at Front Door
- **FREE** Gourmet Coffee
- **FREE** Phone Use (local & long distance)
- **FREE** Week of Services on Your Birthday

Sundance Methadone Treatment Center

4545 BROADWAY, CHICAGO • 773-250-6881 • WWW.SUNDANCECHICAGO.COM



GETTY IMAGES

THE QUOTE

"IT WENT FROM THAT, TO CHECKING IN ON EACH OTHER ONCE A WEEK THROUGH EMAIL—'THIS [BLEEP] HAPPENED TO ME, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?'—TO MAYBE THREE TIMES A WEEK, THEN EVERY DAY, TO 'HEY, HERE'S MY PHONE NUMBER IF YOU EVER WANT TO TEXT.' NEXT THING I KNOW, I WAKE UP AND SHE'S ALL I CARE ABOUT, AND I'M WONDERING IF SHE FEELS THE SAME ABOUT ME."

—Blake Shelton, in an interview with *Billboard*, on the beginning of his relationship with fellow "The Voice" judge Gwen Stefani. The singer added that Stefani "saved [his] life" as he was going through his divorce from Miranda Lambert; "Who else on earth could even understand going through a high-profile divorce from another musician?" he said.



There's something rotten on Rotten Tomatoes

A shockingly loyal fan of the DC Comics universe has started a petition on Change.org to shut down the movie rating aggregation site Rotten Tomatoes after it gave the new film **"Suicide Squad"** a mediocre score, according to ew.com (as of Wednesday afternoon, it was at 32 percent). Apparently "Suicide Squad" is just the final straw—the petitioner was also upset about the low ratings for other DC films including "Batman v Superman," which garnered a 27 percent rating. The petition, which currently has more than 15,000 signatures, says Rotten Tomatoes gives "unjust Bad Reviews... and that Affects people's opinion even if it's a really great [movie]." Or maybe DC should just start being better?



Rami's new role?

Rami Malek, star of USA's hit show "Mr. Robot," is reportedly in talks to star as Dustin Hoffman's character in a remake of the 1973 film **"Papillon,"** according to variety.com. Malek would act alongside Charlie Hunnam, who is in negotiations to play the role originated by Steve McQueen. The original film was based on the writings of convicted felon and fugitive Henri Charrière, who escaped from a notorious penal colony in South America.

She's so fancy

Everyone's favorite rapper **Iggy Azalea** (ha) has inked a TV production deal with Universal Cable Productions and Wilshire Studios, according to thr.com. The Australian musician will help to create Millennial-driven entertainment based on topics like social justice, tolerance and the empowerment of young women. "Creating television that is reflective of my generation has always been an aspiration of mine," Azalea said in a statement, according to THR. "I am incredibly excited to start working on my ideas and am humbled that Universal Cable Productions and Wilshire Studios have given me this once-in-a-life time opportunity."



THE DIGIT 2 MILLION

That's how many copies of the **"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child"** script were sold in North America in just two days, according to thr.com. Keep in mind, that number's not including all of the e-books sold through J.K. Rowling's Pottermore website, or, obviously, copies sold in the rest of the world. It's not quite as hefty as the 8.3 million copies of "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" sold on its first day in 2007, but hey, not bad at all. Engorgio all that cold hard cash, Rowling!

WANT MORE DIRT?

Oh, we've got dirt. Get the scoop on your favorite musicians, actors and reality TVers all day long at redeyechicago.com.